

Introduced by Senator LiuFebruary 15, 2011

An act to add Section 1529.3 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to foster care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 368, as introduced, Liu. Foster parent training: teen foster youth.

Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to license community care facilities, including facilities that provide foster care services for children. A violation of community care facility provisions is a misdemeanor. Existing law regulates foster family homes and provides for their licensure by certified foster family agencies, the county, or the State Department of Social Services. Existing law requires every licensed foster parent to complete specified preplacement training and additional annual training.

This bill would require the training for licensed foster parents to also include specified training in issues relevant to providing foster care for teenagers. The training required by the bill would be included within existing preplacement and postplacement training program requirements, and would not increase the number of required training hours for the foster parent. By changing the definition of a crime, this bill would create a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares as follows:

(a) Persons desiring to provide, or continue to provide, foster care should receive training in order to assist them in being effective substitute caregivers, and to enhance the safety and growth of the children placed with them.

(b) There is a need to develop a basic curriculum, a program for continuing education, and specialized training for foster parents caring for children with unique needs.

SEC. 2. Section 1529.3 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

1529.3. (a) As a part of the training required by this article, if a foster parent intends to begin or continue to care for youth 14 years of age or older, in order to provide the foster parent with the skills and expertise to care for this important population, the foster parent shall receive training in issues relevant to teenagers, including, but not limited to, all of the following subjects:

(1) Education rights.

(2) Accessing independent living program services and assisting the teenager with independent living skills.

(3) College acceptance and financial aid.

(4) Drug prevention.

(5) Financial literacy.

(6) Avoiding teen-parent conflict.

(b) The training required pursuant to this section shall be included within existing preplacement and postplacement training program requirements, and shall not increase the number of required training hours for the foster parent.

SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

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